I claim:

1. 1. A computer system for verifying a commercial transaction between an account-holder
2. and a merchant, said computer system comprising:
3.   a processing unit for processing data and code; and
4.   a memory device for storing said data and said code,
5.   said code including a merchant communications module operative to facilitate a
6.   connection with said merchant for receiving a transaction approval request
7.   including a complete account number associated with said account-holder,
8.   said data including at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said
9.   account-holder, and
10.   said code further including an authorization module responsive to said transaction
11.   approval request and operative to compare said transaction approval request
12.   with said pre-verification criteria, and to verify said transaction approval
13.   request if said at least one pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1. 2. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
2.   said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification
3.   criteria; and
4.   said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request if at
5.   least one of said plurality of pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1. 3. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
2.   said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification
3.   criteria; and
4.   said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request only
5.   if all of said plurality of pre-verification criteria are satisfied.

1. 4. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria are
2. determined by said account-holder.

1   5. A computer system according to Claim 1, further comprising an account-holder

2 communications module operative to:

3   receive a connection request from said account-holder;

4   establish a connection with said account-holder;

5   authenticate said account-holder;

6   present at least one of said pre-verification criteria to said account-holder; and

7   receive modification instructions for said one of said pre-verification criteria from

8   said account holder.

1   6. A computer system according to Claim 5, wherein, prior to receiving said

2 modification instructions from said account-holder, none of said pre-verification criteria can be

3 satisfied by said transaction approval request.

1   7. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria

2 include at least one merchant identifier.

1   8. A computer system according to Claim 7, wherein said authorization module,

2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:

3   compare said merchant transmitting said transaction approval request with each of

4   said merchant identifiers; and

5   verify said transaction approval request if said merchant sending said transaction

6   approval request is identified by one of said merchant identifiers.

1   9. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria

2 include a maximum pre-verified purchase price.

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1   10. A computer system according to Claim 9, wherein said authorization module,

2 responsive to receipt of a transaction approval request is operative to:

3   compare a purchase price contained within said transaction approval request with said

4   maximum pre-verified purchase price; and

5   verify said transaction approval request if said purchase price contained within said

6   transaction approval request is less than said maximum pre-verified purchase

7   price.

1   11. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria

2 include a begin date and an end date.

1   12. A computer system according to Claim 11, wherein said authorization module,

2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:

3   compare a purchase date contained within said transaction approval request with said

4   begin date and said end date; and

5   verify said transaction approval request if said purchase date falls between said begin

6   date and said end date.

1   13. In a computer system, a method for verifying a commercial transaction between an

2 account-holder and a merchant, said method comprising:

3   storing at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said account-holder;

4   receiving a transaction approval request from said merchant, said transaction approval

5   request including a complete account number associated with said account-holder;

6   comparing said transaction approval request to said pre-verification criteria; and

7   verifying said transaction approval request if said pre-verification criteria are met.

1   14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2   said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of

3   pre-verification criteria; and

4   said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said

5   transaction approval request if at least one of said pre-verification criteria is

6   satisfied.

1   15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2   said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of

3   pre-verification criteria; and

4   said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said

5   transaction approval request only if all of said pre-verification criteria are

6   satisfied.

1   16. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one pre-verification criteria is

2 determined by said account-holder.

1   17. A method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

2   establishing a connection with said account-holder;

3   authenticating said account-holder; and

4   allowing said account-holder to modify said pre-verification criteria associated with

5   said account-holder.

1   18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein, none of said pre-verification criteria can

2 be satisfied prior to modification by said account-holder.

1 19. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at least one

2 merchant identifier.

1   20. A method according to Claim 19, wherein:

2   said pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of merchant identifiers;

3   said transaction approval request is verified if said merchant is identified by one of

4   said plurality of merchant identifiers.

1   21. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes a

2 pre-verified purchase price.

1   22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein said transaction approval request is

2 verified if a purchase price identified in said transaction approval request is less than said pre-

3 verified purchase.

1   23. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at

2 least one pre-verification date.

1   24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein:

2   said pre-verification criteria includes at least one pair of pre-verification dates; and

3   said transaction approval request is verified if a transaction date included in said

4   transaction approval request falls between said pre-verification dates.

1   25. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 13.

1   26. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 14.

1   27. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 15.

1   28. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 16.

1   29. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 17.

1   30. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 18.

1   31. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 19.

1   32. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 20.

1   33. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 21.

1   34. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 22.

1   35. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 23.

1   36. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an

2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 24.